The report of the Task Force has been circulated to the various Ministries/ Planning Commission and the concerned State Governments. The report of the Task Force is under consideration.

Central assistance to Rajasthan for potable drinking water

†4324 DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan falls under the category of the State with acute shortage of drinking water;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan and several districts of the State are facing problem of polluted drinking water having fluoride content in it;

(c) whether Central Government have any plan to provide special economic grant to Rajasthan to provide clean drinking water to the people of Rajasthan by granting special status to Rajasthan under National Water Policy in respect of drinking water crisis in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Some of the State Governments, including Rajasthan, report crisis of potable water, especially during summer months. As per the Comprehensive Action Plan prepared in 1999 to cover all the rural habitations in the country with safe drinking water supply, and the subsequent coverage reported by the Rajasthan State, there are 91,161 Fully Covered, 2785 Not Covered habitations in the State. As per the Water Quality Survey ordered in March, 2000, the State Government has reported 41,072 rural habitation having chemical quality problems out of which 8992 habitations are affected with excess fluoride.

(c) and (d) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to accelerate coverage of rural habitations through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The inter-State allocation criterion for ARWSP funds provide for 40% weightage for rural population, 35% for hydrological condition, 15% for Not Covered/ Partially Covered villages and 10% for quality affected villages. The State Government can utilize 15% of the ARWSP annual allocation for tackling

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

quality problems. 5% of ARWSP funds are earmarked for rural water supply in DDP (Desert Development Programme) areas and Rajasthan get funds in proportion to the number of NSS (No safe source) habitations in the identified DDP Blocks. Apart from these, 5% of total ARWSP funds are released for meeting contingencies arising out of natural calamities and emergent situations like drought etc. Thus, the hydrological conditions in Rajasthan are duly reflected in the proportionate annual allocation of ARWSP funds to the State.

Decline in ground water level in Rajasthan

†4325. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Central Government are aware of the fact that ground water level has fallen too much in Rajasthan due to constant famines and the severe drinking water crisis has arisen there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Government are considering to provide special assistance to the Government of Rajasthan to tackle such a situation; and

(c) if so, the quantum of funds which would be given to Rajasthan under NCCF and by when it would be given indicating the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The analysis of ground water level data collected by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, through a network of observation wells during the last decade (1995-2004) shows significant decline (more than 20 cm/year) in ground water levels during pre-monsoon period in some parts of all the districts in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Details of assistance given to Rajasthan for droughts of 2002-03 to 2004-05 are as below:—

	Assistance for National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) (Rs. in crores)	Foodgrains (in Lakh Metric Tons)
Drought of 2002-03	889.61	32.56
Drought of 2003-04	—	0.19
Drought of 2004-05	216.79	6.99

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi